

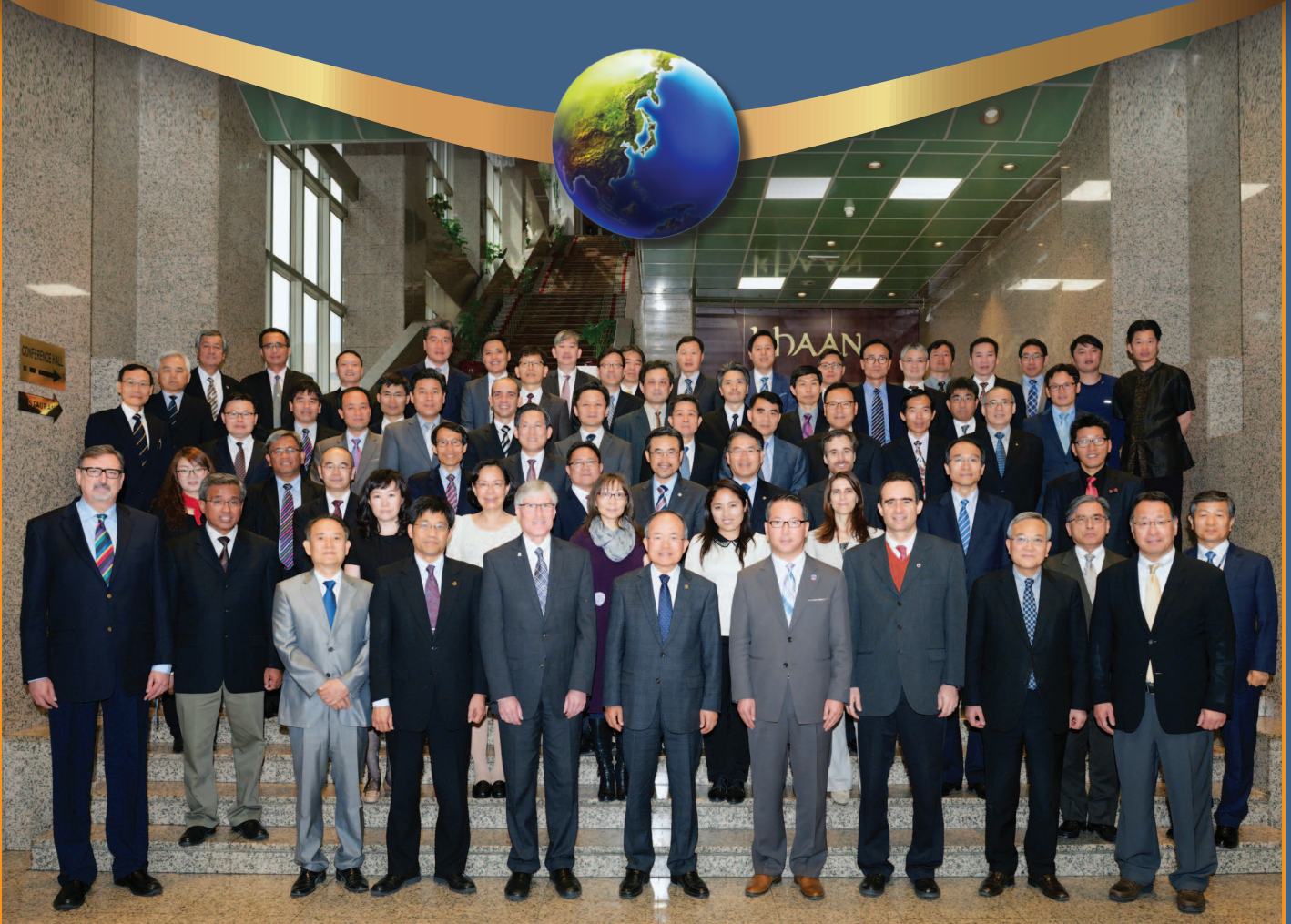


**NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION**  
THE MOST CHALLENGING FIELD

# NEWS & VIEWS

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July/August 2016



The 3rd Summit on Retention and Reclamation  
in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division  
from May 16 to 17, 2016, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia





# Where Is Your Flock?

## Retention and Reclamation: Essentials of Church Growth

Jairyong Lee, President Northern Asia-Pacific Division

The NSD Summit on Retention and Reclamation was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from May 16 to 17, 2016. It was the third annual summit. About 60 church leaders including all union officers and conference presidents met together to discuss the retention of church members and the reclamation of members who have been away from the church for some time.

Considering the present situation of losing more than 50 percent of newly baptized members, church leaders within the NSD territory have paid serious attention to the issues of retention and reclamation of church members. We cannot stop our efforts until this age-long concern of the church is satisfactorily resolved.

The Lord is asking a question, “Where is the flock that was entrusted to you, the sheep of which you boasted?” (Jeremiah 13:20). He deplores the carelessness of His servants who have neglected caring for His sheep: “For the shepherds have become stupid, and have not sought the Lord; therefore they have not prospered, and all their flock is scattered” (Jeremiah 10:21).

In the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15), Jesus emphasized the value of each sheep. He illustrated, “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?” (Luke 15:4).

When evening comes, the shepherd begins counting the number of sheep before he goes to sleep. The expected retention rate is 100 percent. 100%! If even one is missing, he will recount the sheep. Once it is confirmed that one is lost, he will leave 99 in a safe place and go out to seek the one lost sheep until he finds it.

Just imagine, if the shepherd found out that 50 sheep out of the 100 were lost, how would he feel? The retention rate is only 50%! He would be in a panic. He would immediately jump up and rush out,

greatly worried and with a sense of urgency. The lost sheep might be in danger. Wild animals may attack them. They may be hungry and afraid. Bewildered, the shepherd would run here and there looking for the lost sheep.

This describes the current situation of our church. We have lost more than half of the sheep. The retention rate is incredibly low, only about 40 percent! In this situation, the church can never grow numerically or prosper spiritually. The lost sheep are God’s sheep. God has entrusted these sheep to us. He is asking us a lamenting question, “Where is the flock that I have entrusted to you?” “My people have become lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray. They have made them turn aside on the mountains; they have gone along from mountain to hill and have forgotten their resting place” (Jeremiah 50:6).

With penitent hearts, we need to make a new commitment to feed, protect and take care of the flock God has entrusted to us. The sheep should be retained in the fold, and the missing members should be reclaimed. Retention and reclamation are essential to church growth.

God is telling us, “Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds” (Proverbs 27:23). We need to faithfully and carefully nurture the flock day by day for their spiritual growth and retain them in the fold of God. We also need to develop workable strategies to bring lost members back to the church until we have a significant improvement on the issues of retention and reclamation.

The Apostle Peter admonished all church leaders, “Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness. . . . And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory” (1 Peter 5:2,4).

## NSD MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists is to communicate to all people in its territory the everlasting gospel of God’s love in the context of the Three Angels’ Message of Revelation 14:6-12, and as revealed in the life, death, resurrection, and high priestly ministry of Jesus Christ, leading them to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour and Lord and to unite with His remnant church; and to nurture believers as disciples in preparation for His soon return, and to equip and empower them for service.

# NEWS & VIEWS

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Northern Asia-Pacific Division

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# The 3rd NSD Retention & Reclamation Summit:

# TO SEEK, SAVE, AND SERVE



Richard Sabuin  
NSD SS/PM Director

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) conducted its 3rd Retention and Reclamation Summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from May 16 to 17, 2016. About 60 participants, mostly leaders of the church, were blessed by the inspiring messages and presentations given by guest speakers from the General Conference (GC), Dr. David Trim, director of Archives, Statistics and Research (ASTR); Pastor Myron Iseminger, undersecretary; and Dr. Jiwan Moon, director of Public Campus Ministry. NSD president Jairyong Lee and other NSD directors also shared their ideas and encouragement. One highlight of the summit was the testimonies from the local fields. Pastor Chun WonBae (Mongolia Mission), Pastor Lee KiHo (Korean Union Conference), Pastor Chen Yu Chi (Chinese Union Mission), and Pastor Masaru Kobayashi (Japan Union Conference) shared their experiences in pastoral works related to retention and reclamation.

At the end of the Summit, Pastor Jairyong Lee challenged the participants to answer the same question Jesus had asked three times to Peter: “Do you love me?” If we answer Him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you,” then Jesus will give us this task, “Feed my sheep!”



NSD church leaders gathered together in order to discuss the issue of retention and reclamation.

## A Consensus Statement

As the result of the NSD 3rd Retention and Reclamation Summit, a consensus statement was made with the full support of all participants. The statement was recommended to the NSD Midyear Meeting on May 20, 2016, and was voted to be recorded as presented below:

**We, the participants of the NSD 3rd Retention and Reclamation Summit**, have been well informed about the statistical facts presented by the office of Archives, Statistics and Research (ASTR) of the General Conference regarding the low and declining retention rate of the church. The NSD is not an exception.

**We believe** that it is a biblical imperative to seek the lost members of the church. God Himself says, “I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice” (Ezekiel 34:16). Jesus Christ declares His mission, “The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). This is because “one soul is precious, very precious, in the sight of God. Christ would have died for one soul in order that that one might live through the eternal ages” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, 73).

**We realize**, however, that there are challenges in retaining and reclaiming the lost. Unconducive personal relationship among church members has caused many members leaving the church. In addition, the lack of special attention to and understanding about young people in the church has made a church an unsafe place for this younger generation of the church. The efforts of retaining and reclaiming members have been done mainly by the pastors only. Many who have left the church are being neglected and pastors cannot do the work alone.

**We adopt** the biblical principles as summarized in Luke 15 as our guidelines in developing strategies for reclaiming and retaining church



members, based on the local context of the local churches. These principles are outlined in an initiative called SEEK 2020. In line with the NSD Vision One Million 2020, with God's help, the retention rate of NSD will increase up to 20% by 2020. Thus we SEEK:

Search until we find  
Encourage until they return  
Empower them to serve  
Keep them until Jesus comes

**We affirm** that seeking the lost is a joined effort of God and His church. For this effort, the church must be prepared not only for seeking but also for welcoming the returning church members. God's loving compassion in the hearts of our members is a prerequisite. Thus we go resolutely for searching, seek thoroughly, and welcome lovingly the returning members and celebrate the homecoming.

**We support** the recommendation of the world church on Nurturing and Retention:

1. All unions and conferences/missions in NSD to have a discipleship program: GC recommends "Growing Fruitful Disciples" (adapted to local contexts)
2. Adopt attendance counts as standard, so that pastors and elders can track the net retention rate
3. Adopt membership software for keeping records of members, to help pastors and elders be aware of those who are slipping away!
4. Specific training in nurture—retention—discipling to become part of ministerial education at all theology departments or seminaries in NSD
5. Implement comprehensive, practical training in conflict resolution and reconciliation at all levels: union and conference/mission employees and in local churches
6. NSD to hold conferences focusing on missions, retention and reclamation
7. Every union, conference/mission in NSD to appoint a Nurture and

Retention Coordinator and a Nurture & Retention Committee, chaired by one of the officers, and including but not limited to the following key departmental directors as members: Children's Ministries, Education, Family Ministries, Ministerial Assoc., Sabbath School & Personal Ministries, Women's Ministries, and Youth Ministries

**We suggest** various methods and initiatives to be implemented in line with these recommendations, with Total Member Involvement. Thus training and equipping works are to be done for the church members by all the church departments in a collaborative way.

**We are looking forward** that when we meet again, we will not only talk about challenges and strategies, but to celebrate God's love and glory for the multiplication, retention, and reclamation of His people.



1. Myron Iseminger, GC undersecretary, and Kim SiYoung, NSD Adventist Mission director
2. Joo MinHo, NSD assistant to the president, and Jairyong Lee, NSD president
3. Richard Sabuin, NSD SS/PM director, and David Trim, GC ASTR director
4. The Summit participants pray together for retention and reclamation of churches in the NSD territories.





# Stewardship Celebration in INDONESIA



**Kwon JohngHaeng**  
NSD Stewardship Ministries Director

After spending eight hours in the Singapore Changi International Airport for a transit to another four-hour flight to Manado, Indonesia, I was feeling a little tired. A moment after I finished entrance procedures at the airport, my eyes grew big with astonishment as I saw a group of people in yellow Stewardship T-shirts, welcoming me with bright smiles. They put a lei of flowers around my neck.

On the road, a police car appeared to convoy the car that I had been picked up in. All of a sudden I was experiencing the miracle of Moses. All the sticky traffic of vehicles running along both sides of the road spread out to let us through as the convoying police car sped up.

It took an hour to get to Northern Sulawesi Academy where the East Indonesia Union Conference (EIUC) Stewardship Celebration was being held. The 11 conferences and missions under EIUC set up their booths on the grassy area. On Sabbath morning, vehicle after vehicle with members

from churches far and near rushed into the empty spaces in the school. According to the police who directed the traffic, more than 3,000 vehicles and at least 12,000 people came to the Stewardship Celebration. The Celebration was organized by the Stewardship Ministries department of EIUS, with the support of Pastor Noldy Sakul, former president of EIUS and current Stewardship Ministries' director of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD). The auditorium, which had a seating capacity of 4,000, was full and many more members who were not able to get in the auditorium were standing outside to listen to the long day's celebration.

Stewardship Celebration is planned so that faithful stewards of the Lord can give praise and glory for their Lord's great love, wonderful grace and faithful guidance. In addition to the church members' stewardship testimonies, speakers included Rex Rosas, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) and Planned Giving

director of SSD; Noldy Sakul, Stewardship Ministries director of SSD; Segundino Asoy, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director of the South Philippine Union Conference, and me as Stewardship Ministries director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. They invited Elder Hiskia Missah, associate director of the Stewardship Ministries of the General Conference, but due to a sudden accident during his itinerary, I was requested to replace Elder Missah's vacancy.

Sabbath worship was the highlight of the celebration. More than ten groups sang special songs which took forty minutes. I presented the message of a close relationship between the signs of the times and the role of the remnant people of God. I was also requested to lead out in a seminar on the topic of the identity of Adventist stewards as remnant people at the close of the history of the world.

After the Stewardship Celebration, EIUC organized a tour for the guest speakers. One of the visits was





Left: Pastor Kwon JohngHaeng speaks at the Sabbath worship service during the Stewardship Celebration with translation by Pastor Noldy Sakul, SSD Stewardship Ministries director.

Below: Five speakers for the celebration (first row) and attendees



n

Klabat University. Leaving the academy where the celebration was held, we drove one and a half hours. During that short period of time, I was able to count more than twenty Adventist Churches along the way. It was a big surprise to me to see more than twenty churches along the way in the world's biggest Muslim country. We also passed an Adventist hospital. Pastor Mende, Stewardship director of EIUC, told me that our hospital is very popular among Muslims because of the medical service quality and because the hospital does not provide pork meat.

I did not see many students on campus because students were on their Ramadan vacation. Pastor Mende told me again that our hospital has more Muslim patients during Ramadan, because they fast during the day time and eat during the night time.

It was good to see Adventist members in Indonesia shining their light and giving a good taste to society as light and salt of the world and as good stewards of the Lord in the community.



1. Church members brought their own lunch and shared with other members.
2. Police officers controlled the traffic during the celebration.
3. People who were not able to enter the auditorium participated in the celebration outside the building.



Delegation from Palau visited TAH to follow up on the MOU between the Palau Ministry of Health and Taiwan Adventist Hospital.



# President of Palau Visits Taiwan Adventist Hospital

On April 25, 2015, Taiwan Adventist Hospital (TAH) reached out to the beautiful island of Palau in the South Pacific region to start a journey of healing ministry. With the assistance from the queen of Palau, who is also

Photo with Congress Senate and House of Representatives on April 25, 2015



a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we were not only successful in providing free clinic services and healthcare lectures, but we also met with Ibedul (the king of Palau) and a governmental delegation to deliberate the possibility of providing medical care for the people in Palau. Later, on November 9, 2015, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed with the Palau Ministry of Health to establish an international cooperation between Palau and Taiwan Adventist Hospital.

We dedicated ourselves to spreading the gospel and treating more people. By providing volunteer care in Palau to those with a high prevalence of non-communicable diseases and urgent medical need, we delivered the love of God. Furthermore, it was a great honor that TAH was selected by the president of Palau, Tommy Remengesau, Jr., who visited TAH on May 19, 2016, to exchange the follow-up review of the MOU while conveying greetings to Palau patients who were hospitalized at TAH.





TAH president (left) welcomes the president of Palau (middle).



TAH president gives a brief overview on the hospital overview for the delegation from Palau.

During his visit, the president of Palau saw the facility for himself and expressed his feeling that “it’s truly a home away from home facility, and we are very happy that the hospital is able to provide quality care. The atmosphere here is very relaxed, very comfortable. It is important for a patient to have a feeling of home when receiving medical treatment.”

Since 1989, TAH has been providing international medical care services to patients from the U.S., Canada, U.K., Australia, Japan, Korea, India and other countries all over the world. TAH continually seeks to provide “services without language barriers.” Furthermore, as we focus on quality improvement, we have volunteered to be

accredited by the Joint Commission International (JCI) accredited hospital program since 2012 and presented an excellence performance in the 2015 reaccreditation evaluation.

Ultimately, our long-term mission includes evangelism. To be a church hospital, we seek to do all to the glory of God but not for personal success; we focus on taking our responsibilities but not merely waiting for others to make a change. As the Bible says: “Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it” (Proverbs 3:27). TAH will continue our journey of improving human wellness globally.

## KUC Sahmyook Medical Center Ranks First-Class

Photo courtesy of Adventist.or.kr



Sahmyook Medical Center in Seoul, Korea, received the highest ratings in the National Emergency Medical Treatment Center Assessment 2015, which was carried out by the National Emergency Medical Center under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and

Welfare. The assessment covered 414 emergency medical centers in Korea, and the criteria included overcrowding of emergency room, wait time, facility and equipment, available personnel, and responsible treatment.

Four emergency medicine specialists reside at the emergency medical center of Sahmyook Medical Center and are available 24 hours a day. When emergency patients in serious condition arrive at the center, specialists living in hospital housing are called for emergency surgery.

Sahmyook Medical Center was also chosen by the National Emergency Medical Center in November 2015 to establish an infectious disease safety emergency center. This is the system that prepares negative pressure and isolation rooms and that sorts fever patients from general patients when infectious diseases spread throughout the country. Sahmyook Medical Center expects to complete the project by the first half of this year.





# 2016 NSD MIDYEAR COMMITTEE

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Midyear Committee took place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from May 18 to 19, 2016. The theme was “Vision One Million 2020” and the sub-theme was “Total Member

Involvement.” Vision One Million 2020 was voted as the official motto of the NSD in March 2016, and the NSD set a goal of reaching a membership of one million by the year 2020 through mission involvement by its members.

In the opening session, NSD president Jairyong Lee encouraged the participants of the Midyear Committee. He stressed that we can accomplish the goal of reaching a membership of one million if all of the church members are involved with the mission, leading people to Jesus Christ, and nurturing them to be faithful members.

Pastor Kim SiYoung, NSD Adventist Mission director, presented a report on Vision One Million 2020 to the delegates with a detailed explanation regarding the vision and strategic plan. “Out of the current membership of 700,000, if 300,000 actively attending members bring one soul each to Jesus Christ, the goal will be accomplished. This is not an impossible goal, but a realistic one,” said Pastor Kim.

The presidents of each union, Taiwan Conference, and Mongolia Mission presented reports on Mission to the Cities. There were also reports





from the NSD institutions. The Centers of Influence project was again emphasized as an important method to reach people, especially in urban areas.

It was unusual to have another meeting in conjunction with the Midyear Committee meetings, but the 3rd NSD Retention & Reclamation Summit took place from May 16 to 17. During the summit, participants felt the presence of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. The 70 participating leaders from the NSD mission territories along with General Conference undersecretary Myron Iseminger, who was also in attendance, made a stronger commitment to the mission and the vision by setting goals.

May the Lord continue to be with all the church leaders and members in the NSD territories and help Vision One Million 2020 become a reality!

**Song SungSub**  
NSD Associate Secretary



# NSD SECRETARIAT ADVISORY

## The Best Services to Reach The World!

By Song SungSub – NSD Associate Secretary

The quinquennial secretariat advisory of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) was held at the NSD headquarters office in Ilsan, Korea, from May 31 to June 2, 2016. As most of the executive secretaries of the unions, local conferences, and mission had been newly elected for this quinquennium, the three days of advisory meetings served as a timely training program.

The executive secretary works closely with the president as the executive officers are the secretary and the treasurer/chief financial officer in the Adventist Church organization from the General Conference to the local conference/mission/field levels. The duties of the secretary include various leaderships and broader human relationships. In order to address these issues, General Conference (GC) undersecretary Myron Iseminger gave helpful lectures to the participants, especially on the topics of “Spirituality and Leadership, Officer Relationship, and Leadership Responsibilities.”

John Thomas, GC Adventist Volunteer Services (AVS) director, talked about the AVS programs, missionary care with West-East cultural differences, and crisis management. In his presentation on AVS, he suggested that more young people should be invited for AVS missionary programs. He showed interesting statistical figures that the volunteers’ second greatest area of interest is youth ministry, but the calling organizations’ most requested position types do not include it as a priority, and it ranked only 9th.



Above: The Committee delegates pray together for the mission work in the NSD during this quinquennium.

Below: The three NSD officers lead the meeting.



1. Dr. Guillermo E. Biaggi, GC vice president
2. Pastor Marcos Faiock Bomfim, GC Stewardship Ministries director
3. Elder John H. Thomas, GC associate secretary



Elder William Costa, Jr., GC communication director, gives a report

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Communication Department had an advisory meeting at the NSD office in Ilsan from May 9 to 11, 2016, with the directors of the Communication Department and Media Center of each Union Conference, Conference, and Mission within the NSD. Through this 3-day meeting, participants had the time to learn about the Communication and Media plans of the General Conference and the Division and to report and discuss the work of each country and district.

The participants of this quinquennial meeting were General Conference communication director William Costa Jr., NSD communication director Han SukHee, NSD communication associate director Byun SungJun, Um DukHyun from Korean Union Conference (KUC), Daniel Jiao from Chinese Union Mission, Norihiko Hanada from Japan Union Conference, and the directors of Communication/ Media Center of the five local conferences of KUC, Hong Kong-Macao Conference, Taiwan Conference and Mongolia Mission.

In the opening worship of the meeting, Pastor Han mentioned, "The work of the Communication Department and Media Center in

Two major areas of the secretariat are mission and administrative/ clerical work. Church policies, structure, and committee meetings, recording work, and archives support the mission as important administrative functions. Karen Porter, GC associate secretary, provided detailed instructions on committee meetings, including agenda preparation and minutes and record management including archives.

One of the highlighted agenda items was the issue of nurture and retention. The NSD assistant to the president Joo Minho who has been serving as the vice-chair of the NSD Nurture and Retention Committee was invited to report on the NSD retention issue and to share the progress of the world church and the NSD retention meetings and strategic plans.

Relating to this retention issue, Myron Iseminger suggested that membership audit is a revival and reformation issue and should function for finding and reclaiming lost members in a redemptive way. He recommended that the GC membership software be implemented in our territory in order to help with membership management, including accurate tracking, counting, and transferring. It was introduced as a powerful tool that can provide live-statistical analysis online.

NSD president Jairyong Lee had talked about the NSD Vision One Million 2020 in his welcoming remarks. Before closing the advisory meetings, NSD secretary Yutaka Inada and all the secretariat teams who had participated in the advisory, including those from unions, conferences, missions, and institutions, recommitted themselves to supporting and providing the best services to reach the NSD goal—a membership of one million during this quinquennial period by the year 2020. May God continue to bless and empower all the secretaries and their teams with the full mission spirit!





# MUNICATION ADVISORY is Communication

at the NSD communication advisory.

Christ and work out of Christ have a great difference in spirit, goals, and results.” He appealed, “When we experience true rebirth in Christ, all of our communication and media work which are utilized to witness the truth can be justified and fully effective.”

Elder William Costa, Jr., reported the core strategic plans of the GC communication department for this 5-year session, such as mission training through communication and media, Adventist News

Network, GAIN, social network mission, Christian film, and crisis management.

In addition to the reports of work plans from the communication department of each Union Conference and Conference, there were other interesting reports, such as “Internet and Social Network Mission” by Pastor Lee SangYoung, KUC Media Center, “Internet Mission in China” by Mr. Jiao Lui from China, and “Copywriting for Mission” by Miss Baek YoungShim,

office assistant of the NSD Communication Department.

On the second day, after the morning session, the participants experienced a special field trip. They visited JTBC Broadcasting Station and Korean Film Museum in Sangam, Seoul. At JTBC they toured film sites and studios and learned about shooting methods and equipment.

On the last day of the advisory meeting, NSD president Jairyong Lee, through his devotional message, emphasized, “The soul-winning work should be the lifelong effort of all people who confess Christ as their Savior.” He also appealed to them to work together to encourage participation of all Adventist members to reach the goal of Vision One Million 2020.

Through this NSD Communication Department advisory, participants were able to analyze the current situation of communication and media mission, to share the vision for the coming 5-year work, and to discuss how to utilize new technologies in this generation, which is constantly developing innovative technologies.



**Han SukHee**  
NSD Communication Director



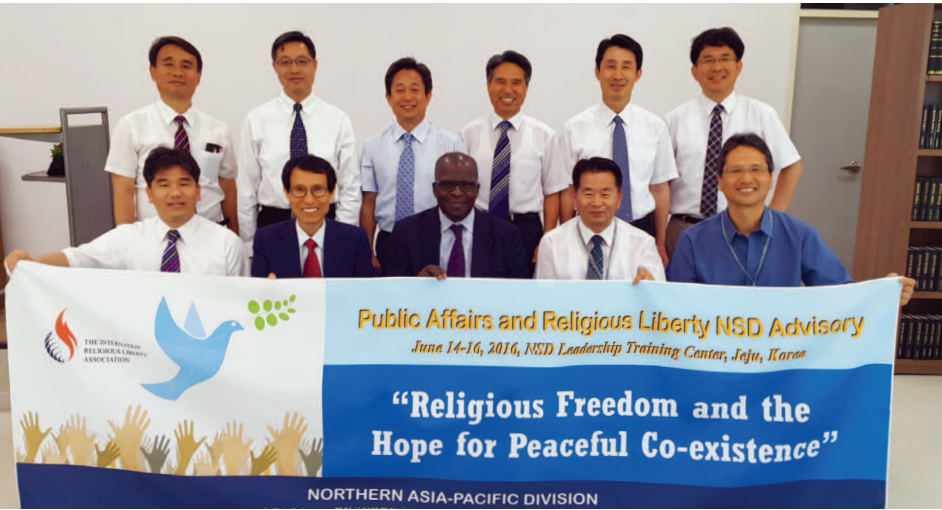
NSD communication advisory participants visited JTBC Broadcasting Station in Sangam, Seoul.



Group photo of NSD communication advisory participants



The NSD had the PARL advisory meeting with Dr. Ganoune Diop, GC PARL director.



# PARL (Public Affairs & Religious Liberty) ADVISORY MEETING



**Joo MinHo**  
Assistant to the president of NSD

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) PARL advisory meeting was held in Jeju, Korea, from June 14 to 16, 2016. Dr. Ganoune Diop, General Conference (GC) PARL director, was invited to the meeting to give relevant guidance on how to advance the ministry of PARL at each level of church organization in the NSD territories. Along with the Union and local Conference PARL directors, 11 pastors and two dentists attended the advisory meeting and shared ideas on how to help our churches enjoy religious freedom.

The NSD has many challenges in terms of not only mission work but religious liberty because of political issues. For example, last year, the Korean government announced that the tests for 37 job licenses will only be offered on Saturday. In Japan, the license exam for medical doctors is given on Saturday. China is still a socialist country that restricts

freedom of expression and doesn't allow people to propagate a certain religion in public.

Each country in the NSD guarantees religious freedom in its constitution. However, there a couple of reasons have kept nations from observing this part of the constitution, and many Adventists have faced challenges in keeping the Sabbath day. First, nations usually disregard the article of religious freedom for political reasons. Second, the majority religious group oppresses minor Christian

groups and keep them from enjoying religious freedom.

Dr. Diop emphasized the significance of public affairs in enhancing religious liberty. He stated that mingling with other religious leaders and non-governmental organizations will be a good opportunity to let them know beautiful Adventist truths and to defend them. Dr. Joo MinHo, NSD PARL director, also remarked that Adventists have to know what PARL is and realize how critical it is for religious life. PARL is the public face that makes way for other departmental work to be successful in the community.

In his report, Heywood Cham, Hong Kong and Macau Conference PARL director, presented several examples of how to help college students to avoid school exams on the Sabbath by sending a letter of appeal to school presidents. Two Korean dentists serving as army doctors also reported on religious liberty and equality of opportunity and how to appeal to the government to protect religious liberty of the Korean Adventist Church. The Religious Liberty and Equality of Opportunity Association consists of a few Korean Adventist medical doctors and dentists. Because of their persistent appeal and constant effort, since 2014, the license exam for medical doctors has been administered on Sundays at Sahmyook University.

Before the meeting ended, the PARL directors determined to advance PARL ministries and to help church members enjoy religious liberty.

Attendees of the PARL advisory discuss various issues related to religious freedom.







## FIRST ADVISORY FOR Special Needs Ministries

By Joo MinHo – Assistant to the President of NSD

The first advisory meeting for Special Needs Ministries was held at the Northern Asia-Pacific Division headquarters from April 26 to 28, 2016. This Special Needs Ministries was started in 2015 after the 60th General Conference (GC) Session held in San Antonio, Texas. Until last year, the General Conference had been serving the deaf, but a necessity for working with other types of disabilities had been emerging. For this reason, the GC made a decision to start the Special Needs Ministries across the board by combining ministries for the deaf with ministries for the blind, for those who are impaired physically and mentally, and even orphans. In that sense, the first Special Needs Ministries advisory was meaningful and timely.

Pastor Im JongMin from the Korean Union Conference, Pastor Hiroshi Yamaji from Japan Union

Conference, and Mrs. Audrey Folkenberg from Chinese Union Mission attended the advisory meeting with the directors of the five Korean conferences, the Taiwan Conference director, and Hong Kong–Macau Conference director. In addition, some local pastors were also invited to attend the advisory meeting to strengthen their current Special Needs Ministries in their respective fields. Pastor Jung ChulMin working for the deaf and Pastor Oh GyuSub working for the blind also attended the advisory to learn more and share their ideas with other attendees.

The Special Needs Ministries is important because it provides helping hands for people with disabilities, such as the deaf and the blind. The disabled may be our family members, friends, relatives, neighbors, and church members. So far Adventist mission has been focused primarily on people

without disabilities. While we are bent on doing ministries to the majority, we have been indifferent to the disabled because of several reasons.

First of all, the number of people with disabilities is less than the number of people without disabilities. It seems we have ignored their silent cries for help. Also, the thought that physical disabilities result from punishment by gods is still prevalent in our societies. Even Jesus' disciples asked Jesus who sinned against the Lord when they saw a man who was blind (John 9:2). This is another reason churches have not approached people with disabilities. However, Jesus proclaimed that he came to this world to give freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, and to set the oppressed free (Luke 4:18). He touched and healed the lepers, opened the eyes of the blind and ears of the deaf, and made the crippled to walk.

Instead of condemning them, Jesus' hands were always ready to minister to them with their disabilities. Another reason we have been so indifferent to this ministry is that we have no training and no facilities. We have not been trained on how to help and treat them properly. Though we may be willing, there are no developed facilities to welcome them.

On judgment day, God will divide everyone into two groups: the sheep and the goats. The sheep will inherit the kingdom of God. They practiced the principle of God's law, which is loving God and loving people. They did it though nobody noticed and recognized their service. The goats did the same but with no love. Their acts of mercy were to show. They did it when people noticed their service and praised them with complimentary words. Unselfish help from the bottom of our hearts is what is acceptable to God.

In the Advisory meeting, Dr. Larry Evans, GC coordinator of the Special Needs Ministries, was the key note speaker and shared some ideas on this ministry and emphasized its significance. He also presented the progress that has been made in these ministries and lectured about how we can make the ministries more effective to seek and save the disabled. His passionate lecture contributed to opening the eyes of attendees on Special Needs Ministries.

Dr. Yoon JaeYoung, Sahmyook University professor, was invited to present about the past history, direction, and challenges of Special Needs Ministries. In addition, reports from the Unions and Conferences helped all attendees realize the reality of this ministry in the fields. The Special Needs Ministries advisory provided the chance for all to see its possibilities, challenges, and issues. Dr. Joo Minho, NSD Special Needs Ministries coordinator, stressed that the starting point of this ministry is to help our local church members to have different eyes when they see the disabled and to open their hearts to embrace them as they are.



Photo courtesy of Adventist.or.kr

## KUC Korean Christians declare the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a Legitimate Christian Church

The 20th Criticism and Verdict Theology Forum hosted by Christian Theology Thoughts Qualification Society was held in Seoul, Korea, on March 31, 2016. In this forum the Christian Theology Thoughts Qualification Society presented the results of the research on the “Reappraisal of the Adventist Church,” which has been ongoing for 30 months. The research committee from this society, composed of 13 well-known scholars of Korean Christianity, declared unanimously that the Adventist Church is a sincere legitimate Christian church.

The society pointed out, “As we analyzed and studied the teachings and beliefs of the Adventist Church, we found that the general perceptions of Korean Protestant churches regarding the Adventist Church were misunderstandings in large part.” The statement continues, “We verify that even though the Adventist Church has some doctrines which differ from those of other general Protestant churches, the contents are not crucial factors for labeling them as heresy.” They went on to say, “The Adventist Church is not a newly-risen church from Korea, but it is a global church with more than 155 years of history. It is impossible that a certain Korean denomination label the Church as heretical using its own

criteria,” criticizing the Presbyterian Church of Korea which passed the resolution of heresy of the Adventist Church with its own judgment in its General Assembly in 1995. The Society expressed regret at the great damages the Adventist Church had to face because of the resolution in 1995 which resulted in the tendency of Korean society to believe that the Adventist Church was heretical.

Dr. Kim KyungJick, who presided the forum and is the publisher of *Criticism and Forum* magazine, concluded, “The Adventist Church was hurt by Korean Protestant churches. It was also the victim of terrorism by a minority group. We have made an effort to correct this for the past three years.”

In the forum there were 13 pastors and professors of Protestant denominations who were researchers and about 300 in the audience. Pastor Kim DaeSung, former president of Korean Union Conference, presented as one of the presenters, and many Adventist pastors, theology students and church members came to hear the final statement. The forum in which the Adventist Church was finally cleared of the false charge of heresy after 20 years was broadcast live through the internet, and the video showing the statement being read spread rapidly through Youtube and others channels.



## KUC Dedication Service for *New Company Building* of the Korean Publishing House

Photo courtesy of Adventist.or.kr



The Korean Publishing House had a dedication service for its new company building in Paju Book City on January 26, 2016. The building has four floors above ground and one floor underground for a total area of 3,795 m<sup>2</sup> (about 41,000 ft<sup>2</sup>).

Pastor Um KilSoo, president of the Korean Publishing House, welcomed the attendees. “The Korean Publishing

House has gone through all sorts of hardship to spread the word of God during the 107 years of its long history, and I want to give thanks to God for His guidance. As we open a new era in Paju, we will continue doing our best for the mission until our Lord comes.”

“It is a profound mystery when we think about the reason God allowed this new building. God’s goodness will lead us to good paths,” said Pastor Hwang ChoonKwang, KUC president, citing Psalm 127:1.

Mr. Lee Eun, chairman of the board of Paju Book City, also celebrated. “Congratulations on the completion of the Korean Publishing House’s new building. As the Paju Book City complex is still in the process of development, there may be some inconveniences, but let us cooperate with one other and grow together.”

“I am certain about the prospect of the publishing ministry despite changing times. God will use this ministry to save many people in these last days. May God bless the workers of the Korean Publishing House and the new building to accomplish His commission,” said Pastor Yutaka Inada, executive secretary of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

Photo courtesy of Adventist.or.kr



## KUC MWKC Celebrates Children's Day

On May 5, 2016, the Korean national Children's Day, the Children's Ministries department of Middlewest Korean Conference (MWKC) held the 4th “Children's Festival.” Around 650 children and parents gathered at the Daejeon Sahmyook Elementary School campus and had a happy Children's Day together.

The festival featured various kinds of booth activities, such as sports, crafts, foods, and Korean traditional games. In the craft booths, children participated in balloon art or wood craft with the help of their parents. Korean traditional game booths gave children an opportunity to play with Jegis (Korean shuttlecocks) and marbles, which their parents had probably played with during their childhood.

Pastor Kim YoonHo, MWKC Children's Ministries director, said, “Although it's Children's Day, we also tried to give parents quality time with their children.”

Moreover, the Seocheon Church Pathfinders Nanta concert, which is a Korean nonverbal percussion performance, was one of the highlights of the festival. The Pathfinders' outstanding performance won prizes in several traditional culture contests.





CHUM  
**HKMC Workers  
 Focus on FAST  
 during Retreat**

**H**ong Kong-Macau Conference (HKMC) held its workers retreat in China from April 18 to 20, 2016. A total of 60 workers and their dependents joined the retreat. The theme was “Follow the Steps of Christ,” and the honored speaker was Pastor Dan Vis, an Adventist minister from Chicago.

Pastor Vis has written training material for FAST, a discipleship training program. During the retreat, he made the FAST (an acronym for “Faithful, Available, Spiritual and Teachable”) program alive with his own stories of success. He shared with the HKMC workers how he modified the training material based on trial and error. His illustration deepened his audience’s understanding and appreciation of this remarkable evangelistic tool.

Workers and their families had a wonderful time together. The retreat was organized in such a way as to allow these gospel workers to get to know each other more through discussion, prayers, games and dining.

KUC **Yangpyeong English Village Receives  
 Korean Education Dedication Awards 2016**



**Y**angpyeong English Village operated by SDA Education received the grand prize at Korean Education Dedication Awards 2016. This prize is given to educators and educational companies dedicated to educational work in Korea.

“It is a great pleasure to win the award. Yangpyeong Camp of Gyeonggi English Village will continue to do its best in order to provide the best educational service and to foster global leaders,” said Jeong YoungSoo, president of Yangpyeong English Village.

SDA Education with its 40 years of experience in English education has been operating Yangpyeong Camp. It prepares English education programs for all ages from kindergarteners to adults. Recently, it has actively served in international exchange for Russian, Japanese and Chinese students.





# MM WE ARE ADVENTURERS!

By Rodrigo Assi (MM Adventurer Director) and Gabriela Assi (Volunteer missionary and Counselor in Tusgal Adventist School)

One of the most important days for any Adventurer Club is the day when they receive their scarves and when the children and instructors receive their honor patches. It is an event to celebrate, to accept new members in a formal way and to recognize everyone's efforts.

This special ceremony was held in the Ulaanbaatar Central Church with the "Heirs of the Kingdom" Adventurer Club on May 28, 2016. Since Mongolia celebrates Children's Day on June 1, the nearest Sabbath was chosen for the ceremony. On Sabbath, the children and instructors got involved in each part of the worship service.

It was an amazing opportunity to show and explain to the church members what the Adventurer Club is all about. Most of them had never heard about the Club since "Heirs of the Kingdom" is the first Adventurer Club in Mongolia. For the first time, all the members were dressed in the official Adventurer uniform as a group, and everyone was presented with a scarf, a total of nine children and five instructors.

After that, everybody received the sash with honors. They got awards in different areas, such as Bible 1, God's world, fitness fun, health specialist, know your body, environmentalist, friend of nature, ladybugs, butterflies, lizards, dogs, and road safety. The ceremony was

led by Pastor Rodrigo Assi, leader of the Pathfinder/Adventurer Ministry in Mongolia Mission.

All of us were happy and thankful to God because He has guided us from the beginning until now. We are sure that, through this Club and by the power of the Holy Spirit, God's message will continue being proclaimed throughout the country.

### Adventurer Club Song

We are Adventurers  
 At home, at school, at play.  
 We are Adventurers  
 We're learning every day.  
 To be honest, kind and true.  
 To be like Jesus through and through.  
 We are Adventurers!

### Adventurer Pledge

Because Jesus loves me, I will always do my best.

### Adventurer Law

Jesus can help me to:

- Be obedient
- Be pure
- Be true
- Be kind
- Be respectful
- Be attentive
- Be helpful
- Be cheerful
- Be thoughtful
- Be reverent



A Mongolian Adventurer Club member receives a scarf.



Group photo of Mongolian Adventurer Club members wearing the official Adventurer uniform

KUC

# SWKC holds a 3040 HEALING CAMP



The South West Korean Conference (SWKC) held a “30/40 Healing Camp” from June 4 to 6, 2016, at Naju Resort, Korea. This camp was for Adventists in their 30s and 40s, who are considered the pillar of the Korean Adventist Church. Under the theme of “Finding a Happy Life as a Christian,” the camp attracted about 100 people who were blessed by God’s word and enjoyed fellowshiping with other camp participants.

The camp started with the welcoming remarks of Pastor Kwon JaeHyun, SWKC ministerial director. He stated, “If the pillars of a building get damaged, the building will be in danger. You are a pillar of your family, your church, and your society. Please be a strong pillar that provides good support to the building.”

Pastor Ahn JaeSoon, Korean Union Conference family ministries director, was one of the speakers. Since this camp was called a “Healing Camp,” he focused on cure and recovery in parent-child and marital relationships. He pointed out that if a person has emotional scars and psychological trauma and does not try to be cured, the person’s state

of mind will get worse and will harm relationships surrounding him or her. Pastor Ahn introduced God as the great healer. “The only way to heal our wounds is to bring them to Jesus Christ and let him work in our wounded hearts.”

Pastor Oh JaeHo from the Adventist Training Center gave a lecture on 1 Corinthians 13, with the title “God’s Agape Love.” His talk included the necessity of love, 15 attributes of love, and the eternity of love. His conclusion was that all the love within us should be from God, and this love should be the reason for everything we do. He presented the contrast between Saul, who hated David, and his son Jonathan,

who loved David. He also shared the example of the arrogant man Saul who became Paul the Apostle after realizing the absolute love of God. “As we realize God’s love toward us, we will no longer be jealous or hateful. That’s why we should maintain a close relationship with God,” said Pastor Oh.

The other speaker was Pastor Jeong YeonTack from Gwangju Wolgok Church, who gave a talk on “Happiness and Mission of Adventists.” He emphasized that if we believe that God gives us the best, we can give up all of our own thoughts, plans and wills, and follow His way entirely. Pastor Jeong talked about the characteristics of this generation, who dislike belonging to any organized church but have an interest in spirituality. He proposed some ways of evangelism suitable for this generation, such as small group ministries.

The camp participants also had time to divide into small groups and discuss various topics, such as religious life, church life, health, marriage, and children’s education. They also had an opportunity to receive counseling from the speakers on various personal matters.

The SWKW ministerial department encourages camp participants to maintain their networks so that they can keep exchanging ideas and information about church work and mission. They will play a vital role for mission work in their local community.

Camp participants share what they discussed in their small group.



Camp participants uplift one another in prayer.







## MM “Disciples in Action” Seminar for Mongolia Mission

By Richard Sabuin (NSD SS/PM Director) and Yure Gramacho (MM SS/PM Director)

According to Ellen G. White, “the Sabbath School should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ” (*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 10). But how can we put these inspired words into practice in our local churches?

In order to answer this crucial question, the “Disciples in Action” seminar and workshop were held at the Ulaanbaatar Central Church in Mongolia from May 20 to 22, 2016. No fewer than 70 participants attended the training. They consisted of delegates from 27 local churches in Mongolia Mission (MM), including pastors, elders, Sabbath school superintendents and teachers, and Personal Ministries leaders of the churches.

Various topics, such as how to organize and run small groups effectively, how to teach Sabbath school lessons in a dynamic and meaningful way, and how to be faithful disciples of Christ, were presented during the seminar. Each local church also received a Basic SS/PM Manual, where they can find the mission, objectives and history of Sabbath school as well as a suggested Sabbath school program schedule and other useful content.

Pastor Richard Sabuin, the Sabbath School & Personal Ministries (SS/PM) director of the Northern Asia Pacific Division (NSD), and Pastor Yure Gramacho, the MM SS/PM director, were the main speakers during this training. The attendees were also blessed by a powerful testimony by Pastor Akeri Suzuki, the NSD honorary associate director of SS/PM. The purpose was to help participants commit to God’s mission, namely, to make disciples. Pastor Kim YoHan, MM president, preached during the dedication service which closed the event.

An emphasis on utilizing Small Groups for soul winning, retention and reclamation was a highlight of



Above: The seminar attendees have a praise and worship session.  
Below: No fewer than 70 participants attended the training seminar.

the seminar. “When small groups are organized and run properly, there will be more souls to win as well as more members to reclaim and retain,” said Pastor Sabuin. We have a great dream in our hearts to make every single church member a faithful, active and fruitful disciple of Jesus Christ. This is what “Disciples in Action” is all about! By the power of the Holy Spirit and by God’s grace, we will see this dream come true in our generation!



CHUM

## Taipo Adventists Reach Out to the Community During Easter

On March 27, 2016, the Adventist members in Taipo, Hong Kong, held a carnival for the community. The Adventists set up many stations to provide the visitors with fun activities and helpful services.

The Adventists hoped to reach out to the community through services. About 200 people came to the event. Ninety of them accepted a free medical check-up, and many of them, for the first time, learned about the true meaning of Easter.



Above: Adventists in Taipo give free medical check-up to people at the carnival.  
Below: Live gig by Adventist youth



Youth pastors and leaders in China gathered at the advisory meeting for youth ministries.

CHUM

## Chinese Union Mission Youth Advisory Meeting

The Chinese Union Mission (CHUM) Youth Ministries Department (Director: Alphon Fung) held an advisory meeting from May 11 to 12, 2016, at Hudai Church, located in Wuxi, Jiangsu, China. Youth pastors and leaders from all over China gathered together to make decisions on the mid-long term plans for the next five years of youth ministries activities.

Leading the meeting, Pastor Kim NakHyung, youth director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), presented a message titled “The golden time for saving souls in China is now” and emphasized “Vision One Million 2020,” which is NSD’s new motto. He also encouraged the leaders to participate in mission work with enthusiasm.

Pastor Joung SeongCheol, China North-East Region youth director and supervisor of the CHUM youth advisory meeting, said, “I know it’s a big challenge, but I believe that we can accomplish the great mission if we pray and are more dedicated.”

Future plans of CHUM youth department approved at the meeting were as follows:

1. Figure out the current situation of the youth in each church in China – the current number of members and clubs of Adventist Youth, Ambassadors, Pathfinders, and Adventurers.
2. At the Chinese Youth Leadership Congress, which will be held in 2017, attendees will hear reports on youth activities, mission testimonies from youth ministry, human resource exchange, special revival meetings, and others.
3. CHUM youth ministries department will make an effort to train youth leaders for the Chinese Pathfinder Camporee, which is scheduled to be held in 2018.
4. A week of prayer for youth in China will be held every December through the internet.
5. Youth in China will participate in “Global Youth Day,” which is globally held in March every year.

Kim NakHyung  
NSD Youth Director







The volunteers enjoy the local delicacies and culture of Taiwan.



Elderly from Taiwan and Hong Kong gathered together.

## CHUM

# Elderly Volunteers from Hong Kong Visit Taiwan

In order to thank its volunteers, the Social Service Department of Hong Kong-Macau Conference organized a trip to Taiwan for them from February 23 to 26, 2016. Some of the volunteers are more than 80 years old. One of them said in excitement, "I can't believe that I have this opportunity to visit Taiwan for the first time in my life!"

Twenty-seven volunteers visited several cities in Taiwan. They were fascinated by the local delicacies and culture. They also toured a nursing home

in the city of Xin Bei. They were very impressed with how the management promoted artistic activities among the residents. The elderly spend a lot of time painting, drawing and doing other culture activities. The nursing home even allows other family members to live with the elderly in order to ease their concerns about being alone.

The trip was inspiring. The elderly volunteers were thankful for the opportunity. They took careful notes on the trip and discussed how they could live better and serve better.





Celebrating the 30th Annual Foreign Missionary Retreat, 75 missionaries of the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM) assigned in South Korea flocked together at Madalpy Sahmyook Retreat Center in Daegu City from May 20 to 22, 2016. The retreat, with the theme “Empowered by the Word, Shine Forth,” was a collaborated effort between the Korean Union Conference, 1000MM and the Chosen Vessel, the collective name of the 1000MM missionaries assigned in Korea, to bring spiritual

renewal and fellowship among God’s young workers in this foreign land.

“Come to the edge, and so I came. And He pushed me, and I flew” were the echoing words in the worship hall as Pastor Shin DongHee, 1000MM director, invited the missionaries to personally take in the content of the Vesper message during the opening ceremony. The communion service, calling the missionaries to a united humility in the Lord, closed the opening night with Pastor Shin DongHee, Pastor Lee KiHo, and Pastor Yu KyungHo, Korean Union

Conference (KUC) youth director and associate director, as the leading ministers.

Love was the theme of the Sabbath school’s special feature while the rest of the fruits of the Spirit were the themes of the Godly Time booths for morning and evening worships. Timothy Omwega, a Kenyan missionary, facilitated the Sabbath school lesson discussion with six other missionaries representing each conference as panelists.

“God has spoken, and His servant must obey; the happiest place on

# KUC South Korea Foreign Missionaries Hold 30th Annual Foreign Missionary Retreat

By Advent Joy Montesa – 1000MM Missionary in Korea  
(Edited by Mylene delos Reyes)





earth for him was the place where God would have him to be (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 126). . . . Be with the people. Go out and reach out,” said Pastor Kim NakHyung, youth director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, during the hour of worship.

With their voices and musical instrument skills, the missionaries from the five local conferences of KUC presented their conference renditions during the music parade on Sabbath afternoon.

Mylene Delos Reyes, the Chosen Vessel president of 2015-2016, presided over the election for the new set of officers for the year 2016-2017. Candle lights gradually illumined the darkened hall on Saturday night as the missionaries, in a heart formation, solemnly passed their lights to one another during the commitment service. Acquaintance night then followed, bringing the new missionaries together socially and spiritually.

“Everyone who will humble himself as a little child, who will receive and obey the Word of God with a child’s simplicity, will be among the elect of God.” Pastor Lee KiHo quoted Ellen White during his closing message to the missionaries on Sunday morning for the closing ceremony. With resounding voices, the missionaries recited the missionary chant at the last minute of the program’s concluding hour.

Photo courtesy of Adventist.or.kr



The ECKC and WCKC co-hosted the conference on FAST Missions and invited Pastor Dan Vis and Elder Johnny Wong.

developed the FAST program kit for the purpose of training his students and the people around him. The kit was well-received because anyone can understand and follow his program.

Pastor Dan Vis says that the FAST program can reduce the time and burden needed to develop material for discipleship and it makes it possible to train disciples in an organized way. He added, “Disciple training is just one of the tools for ministry. The key thing is to surrender ourselves to the word of God and to decide to be His disciple.”

The other speaker, Elder Johnny Wong, shared his experience of planting a church in Melbourne, which has the lowest proportion of Adventists in the major cities of Australia. He first started the Gateway Church with 20 members, and over the past ten years, the church has had 150 baptisms as well as planting three other churches. He said, “We need to deliberate how to shift the paradigm of the ministry to win souls.”

From April 16 to 17, 2016, the ministerial department of the Southeast Korean Conference (SEKC) held the same conference. Pastor Baek SangBong, director of SEKC ministerial department, stated, “What’s important is how well local churches adopt this program. We will put a strong emphasis on making disciples of God.”

KUC

## Conference on FAST Missions and Small Group Ministries

In this day and age, many churches place an emphasis on discipleship and small group ministries. That’s why the ministerial department of the East Central and West Central Korean Conferences co-hosted the third conference on FAST Missions and small group ministries at Seoul SDA Language Institute Church from April 17 to 20, 2016. Invited as guest speakers were Pastor Dan Vis, who is a founder of FAST Missions and currently serves as a pastor at North Aurora Church in

the United States, and Elder Johnny Wong, who successfully planted the Gateway Church in Australia through discipleship using the FAST kit.

FAST Missions is a discipleship program based on training individuals to become disciples in their own personal ministry and to establish soul-winning small groups. FAST is an acronym for “Faithful, Available, Spiritual and Teachable.” Before starting his ministry as a pastor, Pastor Vis was a teacher. He

Two big earthquakes of magnitude 6.5 and magnitude 7.3 happened within a period of 28 hours (April 14 and 16). More than 36,745 buildings were damaged. Many houses were destroyed. There were 49 deaths and then 17 more deaths as a result of the disasters. One person was missing, 1,542 were injured, and 183,000 people were evacuated.

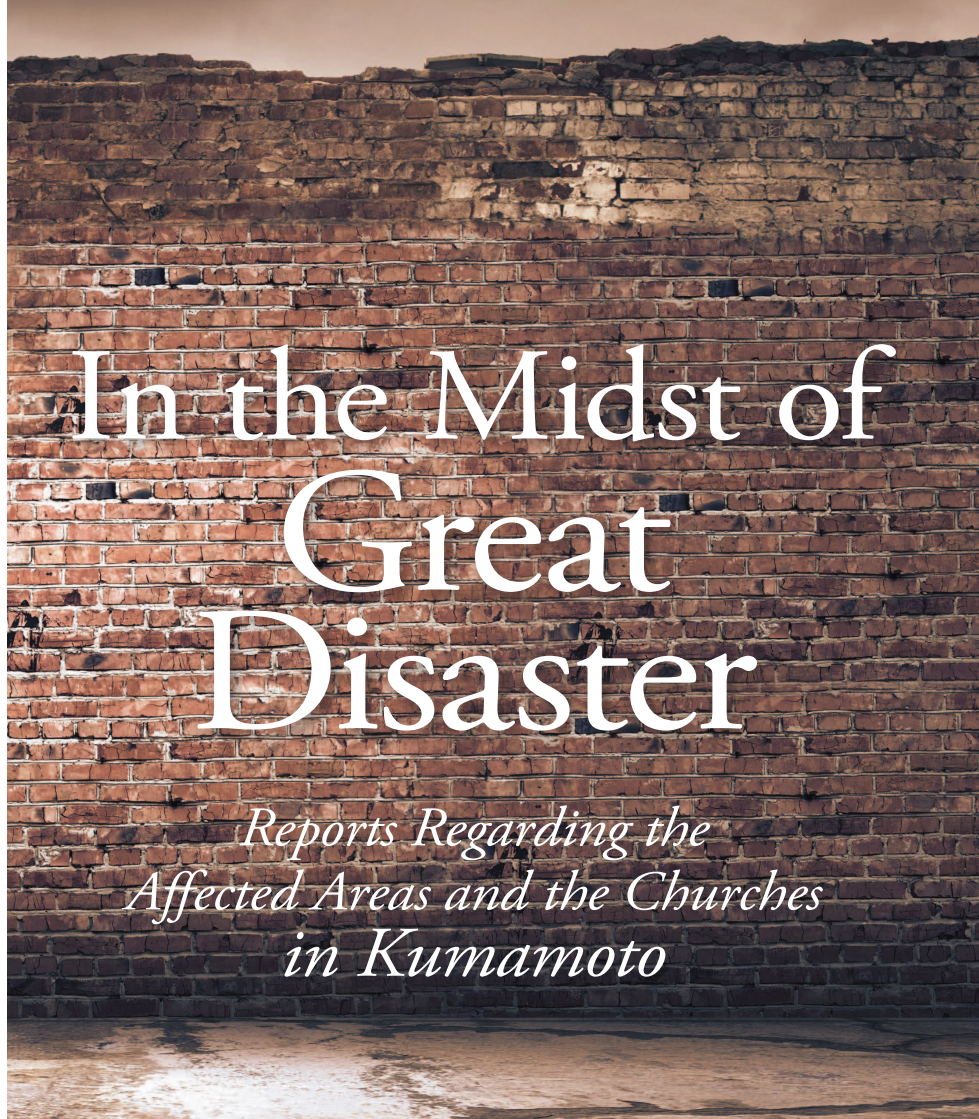
### **Supplies from All Over the Country**

The Kumamoto Seventh-day Adventist Church, located in the city of Kumamoto, was near the epicenter of the earthquake. Immediately after the earthquake happened on April 16, Kumamoto Church started to receive a stream of supplies. The supplies came by truck from Kagoshima Church, located in the next prefecture, and many other churches around the Kyushu area (Fukuoka, Kurume, Nagasaki, and Sasebo) and Hiroshima Saniku Gakuin High School and Kobe Adventist Hospital.

Yoshiaki Takagi is working as the pastor at Kumamoto Church, even though he retired at the age of 65. He experienced the earthquake at his home in Minamiaso. Although his house did not collapse, he left the house and spent two nights in his car. Then he stayed at the Kumamoto Church to help the community. He made an effort to support the community by visiting people and handing out water and hand wipes from all over the country. Now, ADRA Japan is working with the administration to offer health examinations at the church.

Pastor Takagi remarks, "I felt extremely terrified during the earthquake, but nothing fell from the bookshelf or cupboard. Since God has protected me, I will do everything I can to support the community."

Fortunately, God protected Kumamoto Church, and there



# In the Midst of Great Disaster

*Reports Regarding the  
Affected Areas and the Churches  
in Kumamoto*

was no damage to the building. No church member in Kumamoto prefecture died, although one church member's house was entirely destroyed.

However, some elderly people had their dementia worsened; some people are not able to rest at night; some are afraid to go upstairs; some are afraid that the next-door apartment will fall down; some slept two nights on the steps of the apartment because they were afraid to enter the house right after the earthquake. Even the pastor himself remarked, "I have this constant fear that the earthquake can happen again anytime. There are so many people who are not motivated to clean up their houses because they are scared that big earthquakes might come again. They also do not want to see their ruined houses."

### **Service Opportunity Given**

Mr. Hiroshi Kai, a literature evangelist at Kumamoto Church, has been helping out with cleaning up the damaged houses and handing out supplies, such as water, by organizing volunteer teams of high school students at the church. Through this volunteer work, the church and community have become unified. People are now able to deliver the necessary supplies to the places where people need them thanks to the community network. People from the community have started to visit the church to express their appreciation. Some people even stop by the church and bow towards the church for a moment to express their appreciation. Even though they were once not interested in the church, people are beginning to appreciate the church.



The church decided to spend 300,000 yen (about 2,700 USD) to set up a storage house in case of another earthquake disaster. Pastor Takagi said, “Now, we know for sure why this church exists in this community. We would like to prepare the people for the Second Coming of Christ and point them to the eternal kingdom.” He has been encouraging people saying, “We have to go through this trial, but God will surely lead us through.”

**Earthquakes with No End in Sight**

I visited the Kumamoto Seventh-day Adventist Church. I also visited

the shelters located in the severely damaged areas. The 13 important cultural properties and stonewalls of Kumamoto Castle were destroyed. One elderly man standing next to me was taking some pictures and saying, “I am so shocked... I feel bad taking pictures of these scenes. However, I still need to remember this by taking pictures...” The man who was guiding us said sorrowfully, “I want to cry... This is the symbol of Kumamoto... I can’t believe that the stonewalls collapsed.”

Due to this earthquake, the proud symbol of the Kumamoto people was severely damaged. The pain that the local people are experiencing is beyond our imagination. We need

a lot of time, money, and patience in order to fix the walls. We cannot discard the Kumamoto earthquake as simply a devastating earthquake that happened this past April. After the two major earthquakes, people have experienced more than 1,500 earthquakes. Kumamoto is not simply a disaster that happened in the past. The Kumamoto disaster is a present problem that we need to face today!

I ask that you will continue to pray and support Kumamoto!

**Norihiko Hanada**  
JUC Media Publishing  
Ministry Director



1. Kumamoto Castle, one of the important cultural heritage sites in Kumamoto, was destroyed by the earthquake.
2. A volunteer team from a high school.
3. Pastor Yoshiaki Takagi and literature evangelist Hiroshi Kai
4. Kumamoto Church



From March 28 to April 2, 2016, students at Korean Advanced Preparatory Academy (KAPA) had a week of worship that brought them closer to God. The speaker was M.C. Shin, a pastor some students and faculty had already met. Jenna, a senior, said that the fact that she knew the speaker was one of her favorite parts. “The pastor first came here when I was a sophomore, so it was nice to see him again,” she said. “At that time, his son was a baby, but now the kid’s grown up a lot. I liked

for our enemies. I know more about Jesus because of this sermon.”

The second day was all about Jesus’ friendship, anchored on John 15:13. One important part of the sermon was the story of Job’s friends, who sat with Job in silence for seven days after he experienced several personal disasters. Paul, a senior, thought this message was really important. “It was biblical,” Paul said, “and it had a lot of applications to our daily lives.”

The messages for the other days included Jesus’ faith (John 8:28-29),

types of activities last time, but this time, we didn’t actually get to participate. The speaker did almost everything.”

Some students were also a little uncomfortable about having less time for study hall. Teachers made up for this by giving students time to study at the end of every class, but some students still felt a little stressed. Steve, an eighth grader, said, “The worst part of Week of Worship was that it took away study hall time. If we do it again, we should take class time away instead.” Senior Sarah agreed but admitted that losing study time was not much of an issue: “The next week was the Korean national test, so I had to manage my time wisely, but it didn’t really cause me any problems.”

For other students, Week of Worship was relaxing. Sean, a seventh-grader, liked that the meetings gave him a chance to rest. Senior John Yoon said that this semester’s activities were better for him than last semester’s. “We only had worship this time,” Yoon explained. “It was concise, and it wasn’t as burdensome. I felt no pressure.” Ms. Maas agreed, saying that she liked quite a few of the changes: “I liked that the week of prayer was more relaxed and didn’t involve as much setup and cleanup as past events have, and I liked that everything was related to the theme.”

One highlight for nearly everyone was the music. Sunghoon, a freshman, said, “I had week of worship in my middle school, but this time, it was better because it had song service. Song service was good.” Ms. Maas agreed: “I really liked the music. The special music on Saturday was especially beautiful. I also appreciated how many people were involved.”

In all, this semester’s Week of Worship can be summed up by Miss Sharnelle: “I found Pastor Shin’s sermons to be really meaningful and relatable, and I appreciated the time we had to pray together and seek the Lord in unity.”

## Week of Worship at KAPA



Pastor M.C. Shin, speaker for KAPA week of worship /Right: Students and faculty sing a special song.

seeing his picture. Also, knowing the pastor’s family helped me understand his stories better. I could really feel a father’s love.”

Each message during the week of worship was centered on the theme of being like Jesus. The theme song was a hymn called “Like Jesus.” Many students and faculty found the theme song memorable. “As a Christian, I really want to be like Christ,” Dean Min said. “The theme song helped me to remember my personal relationship with God and about the ultimate goal for my character.”

The theme of the first day was Jesus’ love and centered on Romans 5:8-10, which reminds us that Jesus died for us when we were still His enemies. Bruce, a sophomore, really appreciated this message. “I liked how the pastor described the love of friends and the love we should have

authority (Matthew 28:18-20), plan (Matthew 24:14), and Sabbath (Luke 6:5). Each message emphasized Christ’s character and how God’s people can follow Jesus by both trusting in His goodness and also striving to become more like Him. The messages were also intensely personal. Sarah, a senior, pointed out that her favorite part of the sermons was hearing about the pastor’s personal experiences. “I really liked the story where he bought a bicycle for his son. I really like children, so I could relate to the way he treated his son.”

This semester, Week of Worship was very different from previous events. In the past, students had done many more activities during the week, and some students missed being able to do that. Junior Tony explained, “We had lots of different





1. Christopher (first row) and other Golden Angels 12th members with local church member they visited  
 2. The Golden Angels 12th group sang at the 60th GC Session in San Antonio.  
 3. Group photo after their annual concert in 2015



On June 19, 2016, Korean Advanced Preparatory Academy (KAPA) held a graduation ceremony for the class of 2016. I am so proud of what the graduates have accomplished to get to this point of graduating high school.

The year after my own graduation went by so quickly. All of my classmates went to college except me, but I am doing valuable things that would be difficult to do when I get into college.

### A Journey with Music

After completing all the required classes, I chose to get out of my comfort zone. This choice turned my life upside down, but mostly in a good way. I became a member of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division Golden Angels, which is a group of 8 missionaries whose main focus is music ministry.

While traveling with the group, I got to visit many countries. It was a very good experience. I had the opportunity to sing and to share the love of Jesus in Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the United States and Japan.

While we were traveling, communication was the weakest point of the group. Thanks to the education I had received at KAPA, I was able to translate most things for the other members. Being the youngest among the members, I also made some silly mistakes within the group throughout the journey that frustrated the director and the rest of the members. However, the faces of the people listening to the songs we sang encouraged me to continue this journey.

### 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas

The Seventh-day Adventist Church holds a General Conference (GC) session every five years with all the church leaders from all over the world. The leaders of the church bring reports of what the church members in their regions have done and share ideas of their vision for the next five years. Last year, at the GC Session held in San Antonio, Texas, I had the chance to participate in the session by performing special music with the Golden Angels. More than 40,000 people filled the stadium.

I was also very interested in other music ministries. Different groups presented special music during the worship hours. Every group sang beautifully and their harmonies were sublime. I will never forget those moments.

### Encouragements

The time has come for me to begin my college life. I do not have any tips to share about college life, but here are the important questions that I would like to share with the young people who are making plans for their future education. What do you want to do? What do you want to be? My choice might not have been part of a long-term plan, but I knew what I wanted to do and I worked to make it happen.

I returned to KAPA to help out with a program. It felt very good to be back, and I had several chances to talk with the students. This is what I would like to share with them:

Most of you know what you want to do and what you have to do, but some of you are not working toward your goal. The work that you are given today is to prepare you for the future that you will have to soon face.

Go for it! Make some changes in your life, and if there are things that you really like, do it and do not give up until you actually learn something from it. Even though I really enjoy singing, this past year was not always happy, but I strived to improve and eventually learned important life lessons and values in those times. Do not be afraid of the future, but be encouraged while you execute your future plans.

# Christopher's Experience after KAPA

By Christopher Jeong – KAPA Class of 2015 and Golden Angels 12





More than 40 people, including pastors, church leaders and lay members, gathered for HisHands missionary training.



## *Through His Spirit, by His Power, as His Hands!*

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a special mission—to fulfill the gospel work in the entire world in these last days. In order to prepare our local churches to accomplish this challenging task, a missionary training was held on April 15, 2016, at the Ulaanbaatar (UB) Central Church. More than 40 people, including pastors, church leaders and lay members, attended the HisHands seminar. This was in preparation for Mission 2016, a huge evangelistic project which will take place in Mongolia in September of this year.

Pastor Han SukHee, the HisHands Mission Movement (HHMM) director at the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) and one of the main guest speakers at the meeting, presented powerful lectures for the participants. “The basic way of evangelism and mission is going out into the street. The primary purpose of HHMM is going out to seek

people in the neighborhood. ‘His Hands’ are definitely Jesus’ hands,” he said.

HHMM was designed to support homeland mission. HHMM volunteer missionaries dedicate a minimum of 10 hours a month in face-to-face outreach and evangelism in order to share God’s message with their neighbors. They go out in pairs, seeking souls for Jesus. HHMM provides Adventists with the opportunity to engage in direct and actual domestic mission work. HisHands missionaries are expected to serve in their local communities and churches for at least three years with the motto *Through His Spirit, by His power, as His Hands*.

Ellen White emphasized the importance of this sort of witnessing program:

“Calling the twelve about Him, Jesus bade them to go out two and two through the towns and villages.

None were sent forth alone, but brother was associated with brother, friend with friend. Thus they could help and encourage each other, counseling and praying together, each one’s strength supplementing the other’s weakness...In our own time evangelistic work would be far more successful if this example were more closely followed” (*The Desire of Age*, 350).

Mongolia Mission president, Pastor Kim YoHan, pointed out that “this kind of training and seminar is very effective for our leaders and church members because we are not just discussing theory, but the actual practice.” Also according to him, “the bottom line is learning how to spread the gospel in a biblical, meaningful and practical way.”



**Yure Gramacho**  
MM Communication Director



## MFSC Helps a Man Get Treatment for His Troubled Eye

Last February, the leader of the Russian group at the Multi-cultural Family Church heard the news that there was a Russian-Korean man named Ten who was in urgent need of help. Pastor Kim YoungSoo, director of the Multi-cultural Family Service Center (MFSC), met with him to hear about his situation.

It was discovered that Ten had a problem with his eyes. In 2000, he had undergone surgery on both of his eyes due to retinal detachment. Two years later, because of a side effect of the surgery, he had to have surgery again, but he became blinded in his left eye. In addition, he recently found out that the other eye also had a problem, and he could not afford to pay for the treatment.

A staff member from MFSC took him to a doctor for a thorough examination. They discovered that he had uveitis in his right eye and was in urgent need of surgery. MFSC decided to let him stay temporarily at the shelter at MFSC and to pay for his surgery and medical treatment.

After being hospitalized for three weeks and undergoing surgery, Ten stayed at the shelter and one of the staff members at MFSC took him to the hospital for a while. The MFSC tried hard to find a job for him, but Korean law could not register him as disabled and he had difficulty getting a job. He finally decided to go back to his home country of Kazakhstan. The MFSC presented him with glasses and some money that would enable him to continue treatment in his country.

We believe that God will lead Ten's life in Kazakhstan with His love and mercy, and soon Ten will realize God's guidance and live a life as a child of God.



Above: Ten went back to his home country with new glasses, a gift from MFSC.  
Below: With the help of MFSC, Ten received treatment for his troubled eye.

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed” (Luke 4:18).

## Baptisms in Ansan Multicultural Family Church



Ansan Multicultural Family Church had a baptismal ceremony on March 19, 2016. Two precious souls, one from China and one from Cambodia, were reborn through baptism on that day. The church members congratulated them on their new life in Christ Jesus. Before getting baptized, they had studied the Bible with the Chinese and Cambodian groups of church members.

In 2016, five foreigners, three from Cambodia, one from China, and one from Kazakhstan, accepted Jesus as their personal Savior and were baptized in the church. The church will continue to give a helping hand to foreigners living in Korea and share with them the love of Jesus.





## MFSC Kindergarten Spring Outing

About 50 children from the kindergarten at the Multi-cultural Family Service Center (MFSC) went on a spring outing to Seoul Grand Park on June 2, 2016, together with 15 employees of the Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology (KIAT). The picnic was sponsored by KIAT, which has established a sisterhood relationship with MFSC since October 2014 and has supported two single-mom families.

The kindergartners had a wonderful time seeing the different animals, some of which they had only seen on

television. It was a great learning experience.

Since 2013, MFSC has operated the Single Parent Families Establishment for women who are divorced from their Korean husbands along with their children. They also operate a kindergarten for children from multi-cultural families and from the Single Parent Families Establishment. The goal of operating these institutions is to offer kind helping hands as Jesus would and to share the love of Jesus.

## Missionary Singers HISM on Tour



The second batch of the missionary singers, HISM (Here I am Send Me), went on tour in Mindanao in May 2016. They visited Cagayan Central Church and Ozamis Naomis Church and will be heading to a crusade in Aligway, Dipolog. Our beloved brethren have been blessed by their beautiful harmonies and their own rendition of the songs “It Is Well,” “Hill Called Mount Calvary,” “Still” and many more.

The group was established in September 2015 and is composed of nine (4 males and 5 females) young, talented

and active missionaries from the 44th, 46th and 47th batch. Garry Maghilum, the leader of the group, sings baritone while Emmanuel “Emman” Tugahan sings bass. Lyrics Hymn Waga along with Elnieboy Villantes handles the tenor. Haidilyn Lahoylahoy and Angel Salazar are both sopranos while Ermichelle “Mic-mic” Flores and Haremy Batirzal both sing mezzo soprano. Airen Palarao is the high soprano of the group.

On May 21, 2016, they will be at Jeminez Central Church. They will then continue their tour within Mindanao until the first week of June. We are very grateful that God has given us these talented youth to spread the Gospel through a medium that everyone loves and understands—music.

Let us continuously pray that the music ministry of HISM will reach, inspire and soothe the hearts of everyone who hears the music. May those who hear their music finally realize that there is a living God who dearly loves them, died for them and will be coming back again to take us to the heavenly kingdom that He has prepared for us.



Five youth and senior missionaries preached during a Week of Spiritual Emphasis at the 1000MM headquarters.



# Home Again! God Wants You Back!

The 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM) held a Week of Spiritual Emphasis, which was led by the 1000MM youth and senior missionaries. The evening messages were about how we, God’s children, get lost like the sheep that wandered away from the fold and about how much our loving shepherd has been calling us to return to Him. The theme song “Going Back to Jesus” was a standing message on its own. It is a self-declaration of wanting to go back to Jesus, forfeit the world, change our ways and encourage people to join as we set sail homeward bound with Jesus as our light and heaven as our destination.

On the first night, Gemini Gamoza relayed to us one of the saddest stories in history when mankind fell for a “twisted” truth, which caused a rift in the relationship between God and people. The first couple were evicted from the Garden of Eden. The consequence of falling into temptation leading to sin

is great, but God gives us a choice to turn back to Him. He’s made sweet promises of salvation and reconciliation.

Our first human parents were aware they were lost, but there are times when, like a lost coin, we are unaware within ourselves that we are already lost and don’t even know how we can get back to our owner, our Creator. This parable along with the parable of the Lost Sheep was imparted to us by Lowell Lagan. Let us not forget those who are lost in darkness and don’t even realize that they are already soaked in the mire of sin. They need a helping hand, a comforting hand, a guiding hand to lead them back to the foot of the cross. “There is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents” (Luke 15:10).

Chelou Completado told us one of the most powerful parables

on the concept of coming back home. It is the story of a loving and forgiving father, a wayward son and an envious brother. The father in this story represents our Father in heaven. He is patiently waiting for His son, His daughter, His children to come back home. Like the younger son, we have a chance to repent and turn back to Him. However, it makes us also wonder if there was a time in our lives when we played the older son’s role. Have we been hesitant to welcome our brothers back to Church? Have we been envious that they went out to the world and back and were still forgiven? The question is, are you willing to welcome him or her back home?

The congregation was also blessed with enlightening messages from Joan Marie Mazon on “Living Water.” She talked about the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman, which lit a fuse in the woman’s heart to give her the courage to share Jesus with others and help others draw near to Jesus and become believers.

Shinny Cuadra talked about the thief at the cross who was reclaimed at the last second. “There is never a moment when it’s too late to receive God’s forgiveness. If you have something you need forgiveness for, ask now. God wants you back! If you are already living with God every day, don’t leave! He wants to keep you.”





# HOW GOD LED MY LIFE AS A MISSIONARY

By Lalmuanpuia Hnamte – 1000MM Missionary in India

for God’s will to be done. When we reached our mission field, my heart was filled with joy and happiness on seeing a beautiful place although the weather was very cold. I felt as though Jesus was telling me, “Forget about your plan and accept what I have planned for your future and keep it in your heart.”

The most difficult part was the language. We didn’t know Hindi nor Nepali, and we were not even good at English. We prayed, “Lord, we don’t know how we will share your message. Please help us.”

We tried to reach people around our mission field, but since many were very rich and busy in their own world, nobody seemed interested in listening to the word of God. We felt sad and discouraged. However, trusting in God, we looked for interested people in areas a little far away from where we were staying. In the hills and mountains, we met unreached people and shared the love of Jesus with them. Later we found two girls who were interested in our message, and we began to study the Bible with them. Although their parents objected, they were very eager to learn more from the word of God. Later, by the grace of God, we were also able to meet many people who didn’t know God.

One day I went to a village and I started serving people by massaging

**M**y name is Lalmuanpuia (Mpia), and I am from Mizoram. I was chosen to serve as a missionary for a year, and I would like to share some of the experiences I had with the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Before going out as a missionary, I often prayed for my mission field and mission partner. I used to say, “Lord, please choose the best partner and place for me.” However, when the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM) director announced my partner and mission field, I was no longer excited because I had never imagined that my mission field would be Darjeeling, which is close to where I’m from. I had always prayed, “Lord, send me to a faraway place,” but it did not happen that way. I was also not very happy about my assigned partner since he was from a different tribe. We couldn’t understand each other’s language. I

called up my family and asked them to pray for me.

I believed that this was God’s will, and I wanted His will to be done in my life. We started our journey to Darjeeling, praying and wishing



Mpia with people living in his mission field Darjeeling.



their feet. A few moments later, they allowed me to enter their house. On entering the house, I saw a man who was suffering from great pain in his leg and he looked very sick. I prayed and began to massage his leg and foot. Within a few hours, he felt relief from pain, and he received healing. It was a wonderful experience for me to know that God had answered my prayer and had rewarded the faith of the healed man so quickly. I shouted aloud, "Praise the Lord!"

I used to distribute *The Great Controversy* tracts. One day I entered a house and began sharing

with them from the tract. All of a sudden a woman came out. She was demon-possessed. I was quite scared. Nevertheless, I knelt and prayed to God commanding in the name of Jesus, telling the demon to leave the woman, but it was not going out of her. It was a real test of my faith and the power of God to be shown to all present there. Suddenly it flashed through my mind that I needed to first confess my sins. When I confessed and repented with deep and true conviction, I saw a ray of light pass through the window and I felt peace in my heart. I knew

Jesus was there standing beside me. The demons left her immediately. I praised God for the amazing experience.

In one year, I have had many wonderful experiences, which have helped me realize God's leading in my missionary life. I thank Him for blessing me through such experiences and challenges. Also, I want to thank the 1000MM India for their support and prayers.

## Dispatch of Missionaries from 1000MM India



On March 12, 2016, there was a dispatching ceremony for the 13th batch of missionaries at Raymond Memorial School, Falakata, India. Fourteen missionaries were sent to different parts of India to serve the Lord. They were sent to Assam, Tripura, Bidar, Andaman Island, Arunachal Pradesh and Sunderban Island. As they chanted in unison the slogan of the 1000 Missionary Movement, "Once a missionary, Always a missionary," those who were in attendance could see the passion in the missionaries' eyes.

We know that God alone takes care of them. We pray that these young missionaries will be zealous for God's work and play a vital role in hastening the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please remember them in your prayers.

## Evangelistic Series in Minska

The 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM) India Branch held an evangelistic series from January 10 to 16, 2016, in Minska, Meghalaya. Eleven visitors from Korea helped organize special programs and hold evangelistic meetings every day. The 13th batch missionaries and the Korean team were divided into different groups and provided various programs, such as choir class, recorder class, art class, ribbon-making class for children, and art therapy for adults. It was a wonderful experience having an evangelistic series with both children and adults. Many heard the gospel preached and were blessed.



A number of adults and children filled a hall in Minska during an evangelistic series.





1. The Seventh-day Adventist church in Mirador  
 2. Missionaries praying in groups for the evangelism in Mirador.  
 3. Group photo of missionaries in front of the Mirador church building



## Evangelistic Series for Church Planting in Mirador

By Oh SangGuen – PMM Pastor at 1000MM in Peru

The Mirador Church was filled with local visitors during the evangelistic series.



The 8th batch missionaries of the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM) in Peru held an evangelistic series for the purpose of church planting. The event was held in the town of Mirador in Santa Clara near Lima.

Four years ago, North Peru Union Mission purchased land there for the purpose of church planting and built a small building. An Adventist woman has been providing children’s ministry every Sabbath for the past two years, but there has been no work done for the adult population in the area. The applicants for the 1000MM were requested that they hold an evangelistic series there. The church building was filled with 40 adults and 70 children during the evangelistic series.

For eight months, two of our missionaries will commit to church planting in Mirador. Our prayer is that this church-planting project will be successfully accomplished.

## 1000MM in Peru 8th Batch Commencement

The graduation service for 25 members of the 8th batch of 1000 Missionary Movement missionaries in Peru was held on April 30, 2016, ending seven weeks of training. The missionaries were dedicated and sent to their respective mission fields. They will be planting churches and doing missionary work in twelve different areas in Peru for eight months. We sincerely pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the work of the missionaries.



After completing a seven-week training, 25 missionaries are ready for their mission work in Peru.





# Chiba International Church Evangelistic Series

By Jung EuiKwon – PMM Pastor at Chiba International Church

Chiba International Church held an evangelistic series under the title “Recovery” from May 9 to 14, 2016. Pastor Hong KwangEui, director of the Leadership Training Center of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, was invited to speak, and the Golden Angels provided support as they visited schools and welfare facilities, distributed tracts, and held concerts in the streets.

Each day, 50 people experienced spiritual recovery as they listened to the message by Pastor Hong and the music by the Golden Angels. The members of Chiba International Church experienced a sense of unity like never before as they joined forces for the purpose of saving souls for Christ. By being involved

in evangelism, the members were reminded that working sacrificially for Christ is the greatest joy for Christians.

The greatest fruit of the labor was the baptism of Nohara Yukie and Moriuchi Elizabeth. Ms. Nohara has had good impressions of Christians throughout her 70-plus years of life, and she had started to attend Sabbath worship every week. A week before the evangelistic meetings, she started coming 40 minutes every day on her bike even in the rain to study the Bible. A few days before the baptism, she fell from her bike and hurt her leg, but that did not hinder her from coming every day.

Ms. Moriuchi was a Jehovah’s Witness, but she felt an emptiness

that could not be filled, so she started searching for the truth online, and through studies and watching sermons online, she found the Adventist Church. Through fellowship with caring members and Bible study, she discovered the truth and was baptized.

In the end, all things worked together for good. The message and songs on the God of love, the friendliness of the members, online media, the sacrifice and fellowship of the saints, and the support of the local church worked together for the baptism of two souls for the Lord. We praise the Lord who led us for six days during the evangelistic meetings.



Golden Angels hold a concert at a nursing home.



Pastor Hong KwangEui speaks at the evangelistic series.



Pastor Jung EuiKwon conducts a baptism.



A group photo of the Chiba International Church



## Taiwan

From March 20 to April 24, 2016, we, the Golden Angels 13th batch missionaries, served in Taiwan for five weeks. Starting from the Beitun Church, we went to Shalu, Banqiao, Sintien, and Pingdong to support evangelism meetings held in those areas.

Regardless of the weather, we were passionate about going out to spread the gospel. We distributed invitation brochures and held mini-concerts for passersby, while sweating in the heat or while getting rained on. We tried our best to share the love of Jesus Christ by visiting people, mingling with them to establish connections and learning

their culture. As we served with a clear purpose and passion, we saw amazing results. More than twice the number of people who usually come attended the meetings.

The reason we were able to accomplish our ministry and serve with passion was the worship and Bible meditation we had every morning. I believe that our sincere prayers and the words the Lord gave to us in the morning turned into powerful messages for the people we met. Seeing our devoted ministry, one of the youth members at Banqiao Church decided that he also wants to become a missionary and serve the church. Our enthusiastic attitude must have had

positive effects on the people who watched us.

A five-week mission trip is not easy. However, with faith in God and with the prayers offered by numbers of church members of the world and Taiwan, the ministry was successfully finished. As the Apostle Paul kept praying and encouraging the people in the mission fields after his ministry, our prayers should not be silenced now that the five-week trip has ended. With your prayer and interests, churches in Taiwan will grow. Prayers shall not cease. May God bless Taiwan.

# GOLDEN ANGELS 13:

## Mission Trips to Taiwan and Japan

By Kim AhnSic – Golden Angels 13







1. Pastor Kim NakHyung, Golden Angels coordinator, and Golden Angels members pray for souls at Banqiao Happiness Church.  
 2. Group photo with members of Banqiao Happiness Church  
 3. Group photo with members of Chiba International Church / 4. Golden Angels visit the elderly and talk with them.

## Japan

On May 8, 2016, we headed to Japan for an evangelistic meeting at Chiba International Church. It was our first time visiting Japan, and we worried a bit about the fact that in this country, only less than one percent of the population is Christian.

The church invited Pastor Hong KwangEui, director of the Leadership Training Center of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, to preach for the meetings. During the one-week meeting, about 50 people visited the church and listened to Pastor Hong's touching messages. It moved our hearts that all of the church members tried their best to invite their family and neighbors to the meetings and to introduce them

to Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, two souls were baptized through the meetings and church members grew more united.

Then, we moved to Tokyo in order to support another evangelistic meeting at the Tokyo Chinese Church. The meeting was planned for church members and seekers who speak Chinese, mostly Chinese and Taiwanese people.

We promoted the meeting by visiting and serving in daycare centers, in elementary and middle schools, in restaurants, in the subway, on the passing road and any place that needed help. It was amazing to see the power of the Holy Spirit touch the audience through our praises and soften their stony hearts. Even though we spoke

different languages than the church members and visitors, and some of the audience could not understand the lyrics of our praises, there was no problem preaching that God is good. Through the meeting, one soul was baptized and three seekers confessed that they want to study the Bible and get baptized after the study.

After completing our mission trip in Japan, we learned that although mission work in Japan is difficult due to culture, environment, and a different concept about god, it is possible to open the doors of their hearts when we approach them with all our hearts.





# Golden Angels International Audition 2017

**Date** September 25, 2016 (1:00 PM)

**Venue** NSD 7th floor, Ilsan, South Korea

**Application** Aug. 19 - Sept. 19, 2016

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**Application download** <https://www.facebook.com/NSDGoldenAngels>